



# ACS Newsletter

VIETNAM

MARCH 2020

*The monthly  
newsletter of the  
American Citizen  
Services Units of the  
U.S. Embassy  
Hanoi and the U.S.  
Consulate General Ho  
Chi Minh City*

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## Upcoming U.S. Citizen Services Visits

Officials from the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City will offer consular services at the following locations:

### DA NANG (offered by U.S. Consulate General) April 24, 2020

**DATE:** Friday, April 24, 2020 (Thứ Sáu, ngày 24 tháng 04 năm 2020)

**PLACE:** Sheraton Grand Danang Hotel (Transit Lounge) (Khách sạn Sheraton Grand Danang, Sân Transit)

**ADDRESS:** 35 Truong Sa, Hoa Hai Ward, Ngu Hanh Son District, Da Nang City (Khách sạn Sheraton Grand Danang, Sân Transit, 35 Trường Sa, Phường Hòa Hải, Quận Ngũ Hành Sơn, Tp. Đà Nẵng)

**TIME:** from 9 AM to 12 AM 00am (từ 09g00 giờ sáng đến 12g00 trưa)

**Note:** For more information on how to access our website and what documents to bring to your appointment, check page 2 of the newsletter.

## Upcoming Holiday

The Embassy and Consulate will be closed on the following days:

**Thursday, April 2:** National Anniversary of Hung Kings\*

**Thursday, April 30:** Victory Day\*

**Friday, May 1:** International Labor day\*

\*Vietnamese Holiday

+American Holiday

A complete list of all of our holiday closings for 2020 is available online at <https://vn.usembassy.gov/consular-calendar>

This newsletter is also available on the U.S. Embassy & Consulate's website at: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/>

Please pass this newsletter on to any other U.S. citizens in Vietnam and encourage them to enroll in STEP (<https://step.state.gov/step/>) to receive the newsletters in the future.



## Upcoming U.S. Citizen Services Visits

### (Cont. from Page 1)

To support applicants who are unable to travel to the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi or the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, the ACS unit (<http://bit.ly/acsoutreach>) offers periodic consular visits to several provinces and cities.

No appointments are necessary. Consulate officials will offer notarial services, and U.S. citizens will be able to apply for U.S. passports. **Officials will not be interviewing for Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and visa and immigration services will not be provided.** Only the services listed will be available during the visits.

For additional information concerning applying for U.S. passports and notarial services, please see our website at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Vietnam.html>



**Please be sure to bring ALL required documents and the items listed below to our outreach sites to prevent processing delays:**

- **Passport renewal:** Bring a **photocopy** of **ALL** official documents (passports, birth certificates and CRBAs). Passports that have no empty pages must be renewed as we no longer add additional pages.
- **Notarial service:** Bring the **correct affidavit form**. If you'd like to complete your affidavit in advance, our forms are available at : <http://bit.ly/acsnotary>; otherwise you may also obtain the physical forms when you arrive.

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

## #COVID19

### What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)



#### What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

#### How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but now it seems to be spreading from person to person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some diseases are highly contagious (like measles), while other diseases are less so. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading between people. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

#### What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

#### What are severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

#### How can I help protect myself?

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

**There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include**

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

**If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should**

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

# Services for U.S. Citizens

The American Citizen Services (ACS) Units of the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and the Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City use a service-by-appointment system. Please visit our website at: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/acs> to make an appointment to apply for a U.S. passport, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA), as well as for notary services.

Those with genuine emergencies, such as the death, arrest, or life threatening illness of a U.S. citizen, can appear on a walk-in basis from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday (except holidays) or call us any time at (84-24) 3850-5000 (Hanoi) and (84-28) 3520-4200 (Ho Chi Minh City).

Every day we have a number of no-shows for routine services. If you make an appointment for passport or notarial services and find you cannot keep it, please log back into the appointment system and cancel the appointment so that the appointment slot will be available to another client. If you forget your appointment password, please contact us at: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/acs-contact>. If you have a CRBA appointment and find you cannot keep it, please send an email to: [HanoiCRBAAppt@state.gov](mailto:HanoiCRBAAppt@state.gov) for Hanoi and [VietnamCRBAAppt@state.gov](mailto:VietnamCRBAAppt@state.gov) for Ho Chi Minh City to request cancellation and rescheduling.

If you are only picking up passports, you do not need to make an appointment and can walk in for assistance between the hours listed below:

- ♦ **U.S. Embassy in Hanoi:** From 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday (except holidays)
- ♦ **U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City:** From 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Wednesday only (except holidays)

If you are submitting additional information related to a Consular Report of Birth Abroad case, please send an email to [HanoiCRBAAppt@state.gov](mailto:HanoiCRBAAppt@state.gov) for Hanoi and [VietnamCRBAAppt@state.gov](mailto:VietnamCRBAAppt@state.gov) for Ho Chi Minh City, with the subject line: "The additional required documentation – [NAME OF YOUR CHILD]", we will then set up a date for you to come in the Embassy or the Consulate for a review of your additional documents. Each child will need a separate appointment.

If you have questions or issues while in Vietnam, you may use our online form <http://bit.ly/acsvn>, without having to schedule an appointment for entry into our office. Our office will respond to your inquiries as soon as possible. You may want to visit the Department of State's travel website for more information on **entry, exit, and foreign visa requirements**.

# Services for U.S. Citizens (Cont.)

**ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE FREE (no cost) FOR U.S. CITIZEN SERVICES**, including passports, notary services, and Consular Reports of Birth Abroad. The website also has detailed instructions about service costs and required documents/procedures for each service.



*WE ARE DEDICATED TO FIGHTING FRAUD.*

If you wish to report fraudulent activity related to any of the Consular services we provide, please contact our Consular Fraud Prevention Unit at [HCMCFPU@state.gov](mailto:HCMCFPU@state.gov) for Ho Chi Minh City or [HanoiFPU@state.gov](mailto:HanoiFPU@state.gov) for Hanoi.

## ATTENTION:

Do not bring laptop computers, iPads, tablets, and other large electronic devices to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. You may not enter the building with these devices. **You also may not leave these devices at the security checkpoint.**

You are not allowed to enter the U.S. Embassy or Consulate while carrying any of the following battery-operated or electronic devices such as:

- Mobile phones
- Digital watches
- Compact Cameras
- Audio recorders
- Portable music players



Please note that these small electronic devices will be kept at the security checkpoint when you enter the U.S. Embassy/Consulate building, and returned to you when your business is completed.

Large shoulder bags or purses, travel bags, backpacks, briefcases, and suitcases are considered prohibited items and therefore NOT allowed inside the Embassy/Consulate premises. The limit size for bags is: 35 cm (height) x 20 cm (width) x 40 cm (length). Unfortunately, if your bag is bigger than the size limit, you will not be allowed to bring it into the U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Please plan accordingly! Bring a small bag that can be carried by hand to store your personal belongings.

# Typhoon Season 2019-2020

Typhoon season in the South Pacific Ocean begins on November 1, 2019 and ends on April 30, 2020. All U.S. Citizens traveling or residing in Vietnam may enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)) to receive safety messages and other travel information. During the approach of a typhoon you should monitor the [U.S. Joint Typhoon Warning Center](#) and the Vietnam National Center for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting (<http://kttv.gov.vn/KttvsiteE/en-US/2/index.html>) (English) or <http://kttv.gov.vn/Kttvsite/vi-VN/1/index.html> (Vietnamese)



You should also have an emergency plan in place before the approach of a typhoon, as even areas far from the coastline can experience dangerous winds, tornadoes, mudslides, and floods. Please consider the following precautionary measures prior to the advance of a typhoon:

- Locate shelter in your area and follow all official instructions from local authorities, including evacuation if ordered.
- Carry your travel documents at all times (i.e., copies of your U.S. passport, birth certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in a safe, waterproof location.
- Secure loose outdoor items (roofing material, windows (coverings), doors, debris (trash), etc.).
- Fill up your vehicle, generator, and water tanks.
- Check and charge radios.
- Charge cell phones and carry your charger, including portable chargers available for most cell phone models at many convenience stores and electronic shops.
- Have bottled water; make ice.
- Gather flashlights, tools, and first aid supplies.
- Have fresh batteries, candles, matches, water, groceries (canned and/or dry foods), and pet supplies.
- Pack an adequate supply of first-aid materials and prescription medications.
- Let your family and office know how you plan to weather the storm, especially those family members in the United States. Keep them updated regarding your location and well-being.

For more information on how to prepare for typhoons and other natural disasters, please visit the State Department's [Natural Disaster](#) webpage. Please also check the State Department's [Worldwide Caution](#) webpage for Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and [Vietnam Country Specific Information](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#)!

# New Regulations

## VIETNAM WORK PERMIT FOR FOREIGN LABOR



Decree No. 143/2018/ND-CP on compulsory social insurance for foreign employees in Vietnam came into effect from December 1, 2018. The full volume in English can be found from the official website of the Ministry of Labor – Invalids and Social Affairs: <http://english.molisa.gov.vn/Pages/Document/Detail.aspx?Id=37228>

**Please Note:** The issuance of work permits in Vietnam falls solely under the purview of the Ministry of Labor – Invalids and Social Affairs. Therefore, you should contact the office of your respective provincial Department of Labor – Invalids and Social Affairs for official guidance in case you need further assistance.

**Some helpful links regarding Decree No. 143/2018/ND-CP:**

<https://www.vantageasia.com/work-permit-foreigners-vietnam/>

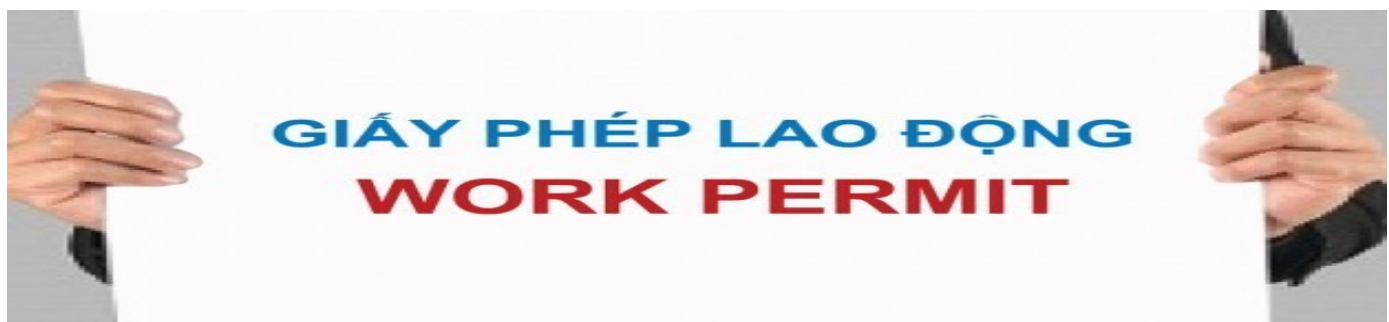
<https://www.amchamvietnam.com/foreign-staff-increase-forces-insurance-change/>

**Some of the provincial Department of Labor – Invalids and Social Affairs offices' websites:**

Hanoi: <http://solaodong.hanoi.gov.vn/>

Da Nang: <https://ldtbxh.danang.gov.vn/>

Ho Chi Minh City: <http://www.sldtbxh.hochiminhcity.gov.vn/>





# Electronic Payments

## International Direct Deposit

International Direct Deposit (IDD) for U.S. federal benefit payments is now available in Vietnam. With this method, your U.S. Social Security payments will be sent electronically to your Vietnam bank account. It will usually be in your account shortly after the regular payment date. This is the safest way of receiving your benefits.

The U.S. Treasury Department can make payments to almost all banks within the country. SSA does not have a list of host-country banks. In the rare event that a bank is not listed, SSA office will notify the client who will need to open an account at another bank.

It is important to note that the U.S. Treasury Department can only make payments in Vietnamese Dong. Therefore, please ensure that the payment account is in Vietnamese Dong and not U.S. Dollars. If your address changes, you must inform the Social Security Administration (If you return to live in the U.S., IDD will cease.)

To start the IDD enrollment process, complete form SF-1199 for Vietnam. Scan and email the completed form to: [FBU.Manila@ssa.gov](mailto:FBU.Manila@ssa.gov)

If you have any question, Please send an email to [FBU.Manila@ssa.gov](mailto:FBU.Manila@ssa.gov) or call (632) 301-2000 extension 9 which is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays, except on Philippines holidays.





# Air Quality Monitors in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City

The U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate have installed air quality monitors to measure PM 2.5 particulates as an indication of the air quality. You can read more information and check the current reading for Hanoi and for Ho Chi Minh City at: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulate/embassy/air-quality-monitor/> and <https://vn.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulate/ho-chi-minh-city/air-quality-monitor/>

For more details on air quality index, please follow the link to the Environmental Protection Agency's [Air Now](#) website. The AQI can be observed either by clicking on the location on the map, or by selecting Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City in the "Select a City" option on the upper right part of the page. The page provides AQI over the last 24 hour period as well as pollutant concentration and a downloadable historical document.

Please note that citywide analysis cannot be done with data from a single monitor. This data provides an accurate measure of the air quality in the section of each city close to the location of the monitor. The Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment also provides air quality data for Hanoi. You can view this information at <http://www.cem.gov.vn/>.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a formula to convert PM 2.5 readings into an air quality index (AQI) value that can help inform health-related decisions. Meanings of AQI numerical values can be seen in the chart below. For more information on AQI and how it is calculated, please click [here](#).

| Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern | Numerical Value | Meaning  |
|--|-----------------|--|
| <b>Good</b>                                | 0 to 50         | Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk  |
| <b>Moderate</b>                            | 51 to 100       | Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution. |
| <b>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups</b>      | 101 to 150      | Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.  |
| <b>Unhealthy</b>                           | 151 to 200      | Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.   |
| <b>Very Unhealthy</b>                      | 201 to 300      | Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.  |
| <b>Hazardous</b>                           | 301 to 500      | Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.   |

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# Travel Alerts and Warnings

The U.S. Department of State has recently updated travel alerts and warnings for various countries and regions. Please review this for the most recent specific information on the country conditions for each country at: <https://travel.state.gov/>

The U.S. Mission in Vietnam has a webpage dedicated to information about COVID-19: <https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/>

We strongly encourage U.S. citizens to enroll in the **Smart Traveler Enrollment Program** (STEP) to receive the latest updates at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/step.html>.

Up-to-date CDC guidance: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/novel-coronavirus-china>.

Please visit the DHS website for information about entry to the United States at <https://www.dhs.gov/>.



U.S. Embassy Hanoi and U.S. Consulate General Ho Chi Minh City wish to take this opportunity to remind American citizens in Vietnam that protests can happen spontaneously and quickly turn violent. It is recommended citizens do the following:

- Avoid areas of demonstrations.
- Exercise caution if unexpectedly in the vicinity of large gatherings or protests.
- Monitor local media for updates.
- Keep a low profile.
- Visit [Vietnam Country Information](#).
- Enroll in Smart Traveler Enrollment Program ([STEP](#)) to receive security updates.
- Follow us on Facebook.

## TRAVELLING WITH PETS?

The Animal and Plant Health Inspections Service launched a new website to help international travelers determine travel requirements for pets. For more info, please visit the site [here](#).



# 2020 U.S. ELECTIONS

## Voting office hours

### What's the first step to vote as an overseas U.S. citizen?

In anticipation of the 2020 U.S. elections, the American Citizen Services unit is ready to answer any question regarding the electoral process. Our purpose is to inform and educate you about your voting rights.

#### **Walk-ins**

January 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

February 5, 12, 19, 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

March 4, 11, 18, 25 from 8:30 am to 11 am

**Address:** 4 Lê Duẩn, Bến Nghé, Quận 1, Hồ Chí Minh City, Vietnam , ACS unit

## 2020 PRIMARY DATES

| STATE         | PRIMARY/RUNOFF DATE    | STATE            | PRIMARY/RUNOFF DATE |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| ALABAMA*      | March 3; March 31      | MONTANA          | June 2              |
| ALASKA        | August 18              | NEBRASKA         | May 12              |
| ARIZONA       | August 4               | NEVADA           | June 9              |
| ARKANSAS      | March 3; March 31      | NEW HAMPSHIRE    | September 8         |
| CALIFORNIA    | March 3                | NEW JERSEY*      | June 2              |
| COLORADO      | June 30                | NEW MEXICO       | June 2              |
| CONNECTICUT   | August 11              | NEW YORK         | June 23             |
| DELAWARE      | September 15           | NORTH CAROLINA** | March 3             |
| FLORIDA       | August 18              | NORTH DAKOTA     | June 9              |
| GEORGIA       | May 19; July 21        | OHIO             | March 17            |
| HAWAII        | August 8               | OKLAHOMA         | June 30; August 25  |
| IDAHO         | May 19                 | OREGON           | May 19              |
| ILLINOIS      | March 17               | PENNSYLVANIA     | April 28            |
| INDIANA       | May 5                  | RHODE ISLAND     | September 8         |
| IOWA          | June 2                 | SOUTH CAROLINA   | June 9; June 23     |
| KANSAS        | August 4               | SOUTH DAKOTA     | June 2; August 11   |
| KENTUCKY      | May 19                 | TENNESSEE        | August 6            |
| LOUISIANA*    | November 3; December 5 | TEXAS            | March 3; May 26     |
| MAINE         | June 9                 | UTAH             | June 30             |
| MARYLAND      | April 28               | VERMONT          | August 11           |
| MASSACHUSETTS | September 15           | VIRGINIA*        | June 9              |
| MICHIGAN      | August 4               | WASHINGTON       | August 4            |
| MINNESOTA     | August 11              | WEST VIRGINIA    | May 12              |
| MISSISSIPPI*  | March 10; March 31     | WISCONSIN        | August 11           |
| MISSOURI      | August 4               | WYOMING          | August 18           |



\*No primary for state legislative seats in 2020

\*\*A second primary may be held on either May 12 or April 21, in certain circumstances

# 2020 U.S. ELECTIONS

## 2020 PRIMARY DATES PRESIDENTIAL

| STATE         | EXPECTED PRIMARY/CAUCUS                            | STATE          | EXPECTED PRIMARY/CAUCUS                        |
|---------------|--|----------------|--|
| ALABAMA       | March 3 primary                                    | NEBRASKA       | May 12 primary                                 |
| ALASKA        | April 4 (D) party-run primary, none (R)            | NEVADA         | February 22 (D) caucus, none (R)               |
| ARIZONA       | March 17 primary (D), none (R)                     | NEW HAMPSHIRE  | February 11 primary                            |
| ARKANSAS      | March 3 primary                                    | NEW JERSEY     | June 2 primary                                 |
| CALIFORNIA    | March 3 primary                                    | NEW MEXICO     | June 2 primary                                 |
| COLORADO      | March 3 primary                                    | NEW YORK       | April 28 primary                               |
| CONNECTICUT   | April 28 primary                                   | NORTH CAROLINA | March 3 primary                                |
| DELAWARE      | April 28 primary                                   | NORTH DAKOTA   | March 10 (D) party-run primary, TBD (R) caucus |
| FLORIDA       | March 17 primary                                   | OHIO           | March 17 primary                               |
| GEORGIA       | March 24 primary                                   | OKLAHOMA       | March 3 primary                                |
| HAWAII        | April 4 (D) party-run primary, March 10 (R) caucus | OREGON         | May 19 primary                                 |
| IDAHO         | March 10 primary                                   | PENNSYLVANIA   | April 28 primary                               |
| ILLINOIS      | March 17 primary                                   | RHODE ISLAND   | April 28 primary                               |
| INDIANA       | May 5 primary                                      | SOUTH CAROLINA | Feb 29 (D) primary, none (R)                   |
| IOWA          | February 3 caucuses (both parties)                 | SOUTH DAKOTA   | June 2 primary                                 |
| KANSAS        | May 2 (D) party-run primary, none (R)              | TENNESSEE      | March 3 primary                                |
| KENTUCKY      | May 19 (D) primary, March 21* (R) caucus           | TEXAS          | March 3 primary                                |
| LOUISIANA     | April 4 primary                                    | UTAH           | March 3 primary                                |
| MAINE         | March 3 primary                                    | VERMONT        | March 3 primary                                |
| MARYLAND      | April 28 primary                                   | VIRGINIA       | March 3 primary (D), none (R)                  |
| MASSACHUSETTS | March 3 primary                                    | WASHINGTON     | March 10 primary                               |
| MICHIGAN      | March 10 primary                                   | WEST VIRGINIA  | May 12 primary                                 |
| MINNESOTA     | March 3 primary                                    | WISCONSIN      | April 7 primary                                |
| MISSISSIPPI   | March 10 primary                                   | WYOMING        | April 4 caucus, (R) TBD                        |
| MISSOURI      | March 10 primary                                   |                |  |
| MONTANA       | June 2 primary                                     |                |  |

\*Anticipated date, subject to change

# Voting Residency Guidelines

## Citizens residing outside the U.S.



### What is a voting residence and why is it important?

You need a voting residence to vote by absentee ballot - even if you are only voting for federal offices. Your election office needs your exact voting residence address to determine which offices and candidates you are eligible to vote for, and to send you the appropriate ballot for your voting precinct.

Your voting residence is your address in the State in which you were last domiciled, immediately prior to leaving the United States.

This residence may remain valid even if:

- You no longer own property or have other ties to that State.
- Your intent to return to that State is uncertain.
- Your previous address is no longer a recognized residential address.

Voting in an election for federal offices often may not be used as the sole basis of determining residency for the purpose of imposing State and local taxes. When claiming a new legal residence or domicile, legal counsel should be consulted because there may be other factors to consider, such as tax implications.

If you cannot remember the address where you last physically resided, then FVAP recommends checking old tax records, passports or family correspondence. Sometimes election offices can help identify your address if you were previously registered. To claim a new legal residence or domicile, consult legal counsel as there may be other factors to consider, such as tax implications.

### Voting residence and the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)

It is important to remember that your voting residence address listed on the FPCA must be an address in the United States. Placing an overseas address in block 7 of the form may automatically disqualify you.

### Children born outside the U.S.

Voting rights vary by State for U.S. citizens born overseas who have never established residence in the United States. In some States, U.S. citizens 18 years or older who were born abroad but have never resided in the U.S. are eligible to vote absentee. A listing can be found [here](#).

If neither of your parents is from one of these States, it is possible that you do not currently have voting rights. However, additional States are working to pass legislation to allow citizens born overseas who have never established residency in the U.S. to vote in the State in which their parents are eligible. Visit [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) for State information.

### Students studying abroad

If you are living overseas for an extended period during an election season and will need to vote absentee, complete an FPCA at [FVAP.gov](http://FVAP.gov) to request your absentee ballot. Your voting residence will continue to be your last residence prior to leaving the United States to study abroad.

# Miscellaneous

## Attention U.S. citizens!

Beginning January 1, 2017, the IRS will require that all (Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) not used on a federal tax return at least once in the last three years will no longer be valid for use on a tax return. Find more information, please visit our website <https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/internal-revenue-service-u-s-taxes/> or at [IRS.gov](https://irs.gov).

For the info in Vietnamese, please go to: [vn.usembassy.gov/vi/u-s-citizen-services-vi/internal-revenue-service-u-s-taxes-vi/](https://vn.usembassy.gov/vi/u-s-citizen-services-vi/internal-revenue-service-u-s-taxes-vi/)

## Vietnam will allow foreigners to change visa status without leaving the country, as of July 1, 2020

According to the revised Law on Entry, Exit, Transit and Residence of Foreigners, which was passed by lawmakers in November, foreign visitors to Vietnam can apply for a change of visa purpose under a number of particular conditions.

Visitors who can prove they are investors or representatives of foreign organizations that make legal investments in Vietnam will be allowed to switch their purpose of visit during the stay in the country. Family members of such visa holders will have the same advantage.

Foreign workers who receive job offers in Vietnam or enter the country on e-visas will be able to change their visa status as long as they have a valid work permit or the confirmation that they are eligible for one.

## Request for an Emergency Passport

If you have urgent travel plans, we can assist you by issuing an emergency passport. Such passports have limited validity and cannot be extended (validity depends on the case, but maximum validity is for one year). Passport holders are required to exchange their limited -validity passport for a full -validity photo-digitized passport upon completion of their emergency travel, either through passport facilities in the U.S. or at U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad.

**Please be advised that some countries, such as Indonesia, may have restrictions on travelers entering on a limited-validity passport.** If your next destination is outside the United States, please review the entry/exit restrictions for your destination country by visiting the U.S. Department of State travel page at : <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country.html>.

## How to Subscribe/Unsubscribe to this Newsletter

The U.S. Embassy in Hanoi and U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City are sending this monthly newsletter via the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) as a public service to U.S. citizens in Vietnam. If you are departing Vietnam after a long stay, please be sure to update your status in STEP: <https://step.state.gov/step/> Updating your status if you move away from Vietnam will remove you from the mailing list for this newsletter and other Embassy and Consulate Messages for U.S. citizens in Vietnam.

If you encounter any difficulties or have any questions about the travel registration website, please send an e-mail to [CASTEP@state.gov](mailto:CASTEP@state.gov)

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